

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY  
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ASUNCION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, OVIP, HA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO HAITI:  
U.S. PRESS REACTION

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2969

1. WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 16 CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE  
BY JOHN GOSKO ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO HAITI,  
HEADLINED "YOUNG WARNS HAITI ON HUMAN RIGHTS".  
FOLLOWING ARE KEY PORTIONS OF ARTICLE. (FULL TEXT  
BEING TRANSMITTED BY USIS WIRELESS):

2. "U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG CARRIED THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN TO THIS CARIBBEAN  
DICTATORSHIP TODAY, WARNING THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT  
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WASHINGTON'S CONCERN OVER REPRESSION OF 'VOICES OF DISSENT.'

"ALTHOUGH YOUNG SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS  
NO INTENTION OF TELLING HAITI WHAT TO DO OR OF INTERFERING  
IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE BLUNTLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT  
AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE WILL  
DIRECTLY AFFECT THE AID AND COOPERATION HAITI RECEIVES

FROM WASHINGTON.

" ' WHEN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE WAY THE WINDS ARE BLOWING AND IF THEY WANT TO GO WITH THOSE WINDS, THEY TRIM THEIR SAILS ACCORDINGLY,' YOUNG SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER.

"LATER, YOUNG TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE REPEATED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME MESSAGE IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH DUVALIER. THE PRESIDENT, YOUNG SAID, VOICED NO COMPLAINTS AND SAID HAITI WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE U.S. SUGGESTION THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT THE COUNTRY TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION.

"DUVALIER, THE AMBASSADOR CONTINUED, SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO INVITE THE COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THAT MIGHT SEEM THE RESULT OF AMERICAN PRESSURE. ACCORDING TO YOUNG, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD ACT ON THE MATTER WITHIN A SHORT TIME.

"U.S. SOURCES COULD NOT SAY WHAT ACTION WASHINGTON MIGHT TAKE IF IT FINDS NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE. . . . IN HIS REMARKS, YOUNG REITERATED HIS FREQUENTLY STATED POINT THAT THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT ALSO INVOLVES 'THAT MOST BASIC OF ALL RIGHTS -- THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE.'  
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"YOUNG'S USE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO DELIVER HIS MESSAGE TO THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY CAME AS A SURPRISE. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NO SECRET THAT YOUNG INTENDED TO RAISE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE DURING THE HAITIAN STOP ON HIS 10-NATION CARIBBEAN TOUR, HE WAS EXPECTED TO DO SO IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES TALKS WITH DUVALIER AND OFFICIALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

"U.S. SOURCES SAID, HOWEVER, THAT YOUNG CHANGED HIS MIND LAST NIGHT AFTER ENCOUNTERING WHAT HE CONSIDERED A RECALCITRANT ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF HAITIAN OFFICIALS. AMONG THE FACTORS AFFECTING HIS DECISION, THE SOURCES SAID, WAS AN ATTEMPT BY THE HAITIANS TO BAR ONE OF THE REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING YOUNG AND HAITIAN EFFORTS TO ISOLATE THE PRESS FROM MOST OF THE OFFICIAL EVENTS ON YOUNG'S SCHEDULE HERE.

"YOUNG'S VISIT TO HAITI, A MARYLAND-SIZE COUNTRY OF 5 MILLION PEOPLE, IS THE MOST SENSITIVE OF HIS CARIBBEAN TRIP. . . .

"BEFORE YOUNG CAME HERE, HE WAS BESIEGED WITH APPEALS FROM HAITIAN EXILES IN THE UNITED STATES TO CANCEL THIS

STOP. HE WAS ALSO PROVIDED WITH DETAILED LISTS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS NAMING SCORES OF PEOPLE ALLEGEDLY IMPRISONED BY THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

"YOUNG SAID HE GAVE DUVALIER A LIST OF ABOUT 20 POLITICAL PRISONERS AT THEIR MEETING. THE PRESIDENT, YOUNG ADDED, PROMISED THAT EACH CASE WOULD BE CHECKED AND THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD EITHER BE PROSECUTED IF THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN A CRIME OR RELEASED."

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3. ARTICLE CONTINUES WITH EXCERPTS FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PRESS STATEMENT IN PORT AU PRINCE (REF).

4. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED TODAY (AUGUST 16) IN THE EVENT OF QUESTIONS ON HAITI AT NOON BRIEFING (NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED):

5. QUESTION: AMBASSADOR YOUNG GAVE THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY A WARNING ON REPRESSION IN THAT COUNTRY. WHAT ARE THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THERE THAT PROMPTED THAT WARNING?

ANSWER: WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT A NUMBER OF PRISONERS (FYI: BETWEEN FIFTY AND ONE HUNDRED) STILL ARE BEING HELD WITHOUT CHARGES AND OVER THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE HELD. ALSO WEAKNESSES IN THE OBSERVANCE OF DUE PROCESS HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT ON MANY OCCASIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THERE HAVE BEEN CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. SINCE SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR SOME 70 TO 100 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE CRIMINAL COURTS CONVENED THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIXTEEN YEARS. THE HAITIAN PRESS HAS BEEN GRANTED SOME LEEWAY TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS AND CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: WHAT ASSISTANCE ARE WE GIVING HAITI?

ANSWER: ABOUT 38 MILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR INCLUDING ABOUT 18 MILLION IN PL-480 FOOD AND AID LOANS AND GRANTS OF 20 MILLION. THIS ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DESIGNED

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SPECIFICALLY TO HELP THE VAST MAJORITY OF VERY POOR PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE. THE PER CAPITA GNP IS ABOUT DOLS 170. IT IS ONE OF THE TWENTY-FIVE LEAST

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. MALNUTRITION IS AS BAD AS ANYWHERE.

QUESTION: IN VIEW OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE ARE WE GOING TO REDUCE OR INCREASE THIS AID?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL. OF COURSE, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL BE KEPT UNDER CONSIDERATION AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID, AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WITH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

QUESTION: HOW DO WE VOTE IN THE IDB AND OTHER IFI'S ON HAITIAN LOANS?

ANSWER: SO FAR WE HAVE SUPPORTED ALL LOANS TO HAITI IN THE IFI'S.

QUESTION: HAVE WE BEEN ENCOURAGING HAITI TO RECEIVE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOR ON-SITE INSPECTIONS?

ANSWER: YES. IN HAITI AS WELL AS IN ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OAS. AMBASSADOR YOUNG DISCUSSED THIS WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND WE BELIEVE THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IS GIVING SUCH A VISIT CONSIDERATION. VANCE

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